

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17 and 20 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 10, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brodt (U.S. Patent 2,026,961). Claims 10, 14, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adiletta et al. (U.S. Patent 3,324,584). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodt in view of Ruttenberg (U.S. Patent 4,360,984) and over Adiletta et al. in view of Ruttenberg.

Claims 11 to 13 were indicated as allowable and claims 17 and 22 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 10, 17 and 20 to 22 are hereby amended to more particularly and distinctly claim the present invention. New claims 23 to 25 are hereby added. Support is found for new claims 23 to 25 at paragraphs [0017] and [0018] and Fig. 2, for example.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 17 and 20 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for having certain unclear limitations.

Claims 17 and 20 to 22 have been amended to correct the limitations addressed in the Office Action and are now submitted as being clear and definite. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, of claims 17 and 20 to 22 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b): Brodt

Claims 10, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brodt (U.S. Patent 2,026,961).

Brodt discloses "the padding material continuously covers the upper surface of the open end of the ironing board and terminates laterally of the edges and end of the open end of the ironing board."

Claim 10 recites "[a] heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being positively connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding, the padding having a contour capable of positively attaching the ironing board cover to the ironing board in the form-fitting manner, the padding being configured such that the ironing board cover is attachable to the ironing board via manually pressing the padding against the ironing board.”

It is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not teach or disclose “the padding having a contour capable of positively attaching the ironing board cover to the ironing board in the form-fitting manner” or “the padding being configured such that the ironing board cover is attachable to the ironing board via manually pressing the padding against the ironing board” as recited in claim 10. In Brodt, pad material 1 is permanently secured to a muslin 2 and pad material 1 and muslin 2 are mounted on the ironing board 4 of Brodt by stretching the materials and pressing snap sockets 7 over studs 8. It is respectfully submitted that pad material 1 in no way has a contour capable of positively attaching pad material 1 and muslin 2 to the ironing board 4 in Brodt and the Office Action completely fails to address this requirement of claim 10. Also, pad material 1 is not configured such that pad material 1 is attachable to the ironing board 4 in Brodt by manually pressing pad material 1 against the ironing board 4. Thus, claim 10 is not anticipated by Brodt because Brodt does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 10.

Based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 10 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 recites “[a] heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding, the padding directly contacting a bottom of the ironing board;

wherein a contour of the padding corresponds to an ironing board contour and the padding is provided with a peripheral edge having a bulge engaging with a peripheral edge of the ironing board from underneath;

wherein the bulge has snap fasteners pressable into corresponding recesses on a bottom of the ironing board.”

It is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not disclose “the padding directly contacting a bottom of the ironing board” or “the bulge has snap fasteners pressable into corresponding

recesses on a bottom of the ironing board” as recited in claim 15 and the office action is in clear error for failing to address this specific language of claim 15.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 recites “[a] heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding, the padding directly contacting a bottom of the ironing board;

wherein a contour of the padding corresponds to an ironing board contour and the padding is provided with a peripheral edge having a bulge engaging with a peripheral edge of the ironing board from underneath;

wherein the padding has a material stiffening in an area of the bulge.”

It is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not disclose “the padding directly contacting a bottom of the ironing board” as recited in claim 16 and the office action is in clear error for failing to address this specific language of claim 16. Also, it is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not disclose “a contour of the padding corresponds to an ironing board contour and the padding is provided with a peripheral edge having a bulge engaging with a peripheral edge of the ironing board from underneath” as required by claim 16. For example, pad material 1 of Brodt is turned back on itself and thus the contour of pad material 1 does not correspond to a contour of the ironing board 4 in Brodt. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not disclose the “bulge” required by claim 16 because no portion of the structure that the Examiner alleges corresponds to the “bulge” of claim 16 engages a peripheral edge of ironing board 4 from underneath. As clearly shown in Fig. 4 of Brodt, pad material 1 does not even contact ironing board 4 from underneath and thus does not in any way engage ironing board 4 from underneath.

Based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 recites “[a] method for installing a heat-resistant ironing board cover which includes an elastic padding on an ironing board, the method comprising the steps of:

pressing the elastic padding over edges of the ironing board so that a contour of the padding positively connects the padding to the ironing board in a form-fitting manner.”

It is respectfully submitted that Brodt does not disclose the “pressing” step required by claim 20. Brodt in no way discloses pressing pad material 1 over edges of ironing board 4 to connect pad material 1 to ironing board 4.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 20 and its dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b): Brod

Claims 10, 14, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adiletta et al. (U.S. Patent 3,324,584).

Adiletta et al. discloses an ironing board in which a single ironing surface incorporates a bifurcated portion upon which sleeves and other tubular garments or articles may be ironed as well as providing an ironing surface for general purpose ironing. (Col. 1, Lines 16 to 21). In one embodiment, a pad 20 and cover 22 are secured to the surface of a wood table 27 by means of a plurality of clips 29 spaced peripherally around the board in a groove 28 formed in the underside of the table top.

Claim 10 recites “[a] heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising: an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being positively connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding, the padding having a contour capable of positively attaching the ironing board cover to the ironing board in the form-fitting manner, the padding being configured such that the ironing board cover is attachable to the ironing board via manually pressing the padding against the ironing board.”

It is respectfully submitted that Adiletta et al. does not disclose “the padding having a contour capable of positively attaching the ironing board cover to the ironing board in the form-fitting manner, the padding being configured such that the ironing board cover is attachable to the ironing board via manually pressing the padding against the ironing board” as recited in claim 10. Pad 20 of Adiletta et al. is connected to table 27 “by means of a plurality of clips 29,” and there is no indication in Adiletta et al. that cover 22 has a contour capable of attaching cover 22 to table 27 in the form-fitting manner or that cover 22 is attachable to table 27 via manually pressing the padding against the ironing board.

Claim 20 recites “[a] method for installing a heat-resistant ironing board cover which includes an elastic padding on an ironing board, the method comprising the steps of:

pressing the elastic padding over edges of the ironing board so that a contour of the padding positively connects the padding to the ironing board in a form-fitting manner.”

It is respectfully submitted that Adiletta et al. does not disclose the “pressing” step required by claim 20. Adiletta et al. in no way discloses pressing pad 20 over edges of table 27 to connect pad 20 to table 27.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodt in view of Ruttenberg (U.S. Patent 4,360,984) and over Adiletta et al. in view of Ruttenberg.

Claim 18 depends from claim 10. In view of the above arguments with respect to Brodt and Adiletta et al. with respect to claim 10, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

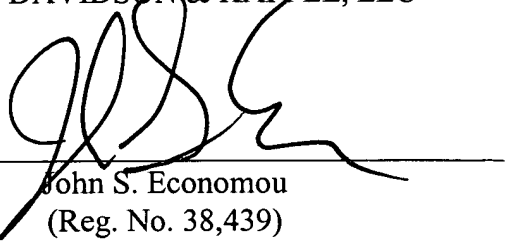
CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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